

MILL OWNERS' CHIEF OF POLICE CALMLY DENIES ALL CLUBBING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Washington, March 6.—Chief of Police J. J. Sullivan, of Lawrence, Mass., took the stand today before the rules committee of the house and flatly denied that any women or children had been clubbed during the strike.

Sullivan is the man who was made chief of police when the then holder of the office refused to obey the commands of the mill owners and prevent children being sent from Lawrence.

Comfortably furred and richly gowned Washington society women rubbed elbows with scantily clad strikers from Lawrence as Sullivan was giving his testimony.

Mrs. Taft, wife of the president, arrived early in the session, accompanied by her niece, Miss Anderson. The two forced their way through the crowded committee room until they reached the platform. For a few minutes they stood listening to the testimony, until the wife of Rep. Rainey, of Illinois, arose and gave Mrs. Taft a chair.

Mrs. Taft sat next to Victor Berger, the Socialist from Wisconsin, who is making the fight for the strikers. As the hearing went on, the president's wife and the Socialist talked earnestly, discussing the testimony.

Sullivan flatly contradicted every bit of testimony offered by the strikers yesterday.

"No one was clubbed, or beaten, or abused," he said. "There was no violence. I was there to see

that those women and children were treated properly. I never was 10 feet away from them, and none of them was injured in any way."

He said that he arrested the women and children because the older people in the crowd refused to tell him whether or not they were the parents of the children and whether they were willing that the children should leave Lawrence. He made no mention of the written consent of the parents that was tagged to each child.

"The children were not thrown into the patrol wagon," he said. "They were picked up by strong men and placed in it. The women made no resistance. They were willing to go. They wanted to be martyrs."

"You and your men made no efforts to prevent them making martyrs of themselves, did you?" asked Rep. Stanley.

"No, we were there for another purpose," replied Sullivan.

Sullivan described the early scenes of the strike. He said that he instructed his men to act as quietly and cautiously as possible and not to take the initiative. The reason for this, he said, was that the police were so greatly outnumbered.

He told of the bayonetting of a 16-year-old Italian boy who met a squad of soldiers on a narrow trestle.

"The boy rushed at one of the soldiers and another prodded him